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Local History & Genealogy Department  
Lavender Family

*William* Lavender m. Elizabeth ?  
+

William Lavender m. Mildred Mills  
b. ca. 1730-5      b. ca. 1735  
m. ca. 1755  
d. 1776

William b.ca.1760 d. 17 Jan1835 m. 4Ap.1784 Sarah Stratton	Winston b/ ca 1762	Charles b/ 1763-4 d. 5 May1802 m.21 Dec1785 Lucy Ballew	George b. m. 10 Jan 1789 Nancy Fortune	Mary b/ 1768 m. 4 S1786 Richard Fortune	<i>(Betsy)</i> Elizabeth d. 1773 m. 15 JL1793 JesseFortune	Anthony	Mildred William Ward	Sarah <i>am</i> James Edmunds
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*8 children*

SIMEON Lyfus  
b. 1 JL 1787  
d. 1855  
m. 1806  
Mary McCravy

Willis  
b. 1791  
d, ?  
m,  
E.M.

Charles  
b. 6 May 1802  
b. 1825  
m. 1825  
Maria T. Edwards

*5 children*

Thomas J b. 1818 m.29N1840	Julia Ann b. 21 Nov 1832 d/ 2 J1 1912	Willis D b.1836	Harriet b. 1836	Simeon b. 1838	O.P. or A.P. b. 1847
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Nancy  
Edwards  
Sumpter Co. AL  
m. William E. McLendon

*3 children*  
1. Catharine 1848  
2. Elizabeth 1844  
3. George W. 1847

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*Lavender File*

(Ed. Note: The previous article on Capt. R. A. Crawford was written by Burr J. Randall, Junior 2nd Lieutenant, Co. A., Calhoun Guards, 6th Regiment, S.C.V. Infantry. It appeared in the Jan. 8, 1904 issue of The Chester Reporter.)

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(Ed. Note: The following article was written by William Eldon Tinsley of Pflugerville, Texas, for the quarterly, "The Lavender Line". We want to thank Mrs. Sarah Wylie Arnette for sharing this info with us. It contains family material that many of our members are working on.)

THE LAVENDER FAMILY OF THE LAVENDER BRANCH

Researchers are not in agreement on where the name, Lavender, originated, and there are a number of different ways of spelling it. Ours, however, seems to be the most common way of spelling it, and it is a rather common name across the South. But I have found no other branches that merge with ours.

The progenitor of our line, Hugh Lavender, seems to have come to this country by himself, and nothing is known of his ancestry. He was born 11 Nov 1754 in County Antrim, Ireland, and emigrated as a 17 year-old, landing, apparently, in South Carolina. He settled on Wateree Creek in the Camden District, where, six years later he took unto himself a bride, one Rebecca Smith, also born in Ireland in 1759.

Hugh Lavender volunteered for military service even before hostilities began in the Revolutionary War, and under several "hitches" served a total of two years against the British. His pension application goes into more than the usual amount of detail concerning his service and relates one interesting experience during the Battle of Black Stock when his scouting party was attacked by the British and he lost his horse, saddle, bridle, hat and gun but managed to escape without being captured. His pension claim, No. 10972 was allowed and he drew \$66.21 per annum from 4 March 1831 until the time of his death.

He died in Greene County, AL, 18 Sept 1834, and was buried in an unmarked grave in Concord, AL. His will, recorded in Greene County, AL, Will Book B, page 153, does not mention his wife, and she is presumed to have died before he did. He divided his estate - which was not unsubstantial and included five slaves - equally between his children, noting that \$59.99 was already in the hands of his son, Levi.

Children of Hugh Lavender and Rebecca Smith:

1. Margaret Lavender, never married, died before 22 Sept 1843
2. Sarah Elizabeth Lavender, married Kinard Bennett
- 3. Robert Smith Lavender, b. ca 1792, m. (1) Jane Smith (2) Sarah Strother
4. John L. Lavencer, b. 1 July 1780, m. Rebecca Sant; d. 9 Oct. 1869
5. Mary Lavender, m. Hugh Torbert
6. Nancy Lavender, m. Samuel McDaniel
7. Hugh Levi Lavender, b. 27 Apr 1799, m. Jane Hopper

Robert Smith Lavender, oldest son and administrator of the estate of Hugh Lavender, was born in South Carolina in 1792. He moved from South Carolina to Greene County, AL, in 1822. He evidently lived in the vicinity of Concord; this is where his father was buried, and with the establishment of the Bethel Presbyterian

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Church in Sumter County, AL, he and his wife presented letters from the Concord church. Sumter County, AL, was created in 1832 after the Choctaw Indians had been cruelly driven westward to Arkansas and Oklahoma by the Army, and he was one of the early purchasers of land in that county, under a patent issued December 1834, but appears to have moved there prior to that time.

He was a prominent man in the community of Sumterville, where he acquired several hundred acres of land and became a plantation operator with more than 30 slaves. But the story of the last five years of his life and that of his children and grand-children for the next fifty years is a story of heartbreak and privation that characterized the aftermath of the War Between the States. And one seethes as he reviews the records of Sumter County and observes Carpetbaggers managing to get the estate of Robert S. Lavender declared insolvent, thieving lawyers appointed administrators and as guardians for his minor children and all of his lands sold for a pittance - to themselves and their cohorts!

Robert S. Lavender died in Sumter County, AL, 24 July 1865, very shortly after the War's end in April. He was buried in an unmarked grave.

He married (1) Jane Smith, probably in South Carolina, and then (2) Sarah Ann Johnson, widow of Edward H. Strother, and had one child by the latter. Children of Robert Smith Lavender and Jane Smith:

1. David Smith Lavender, b. 23 Apr 1826, d. 28 Dec 1901 and is buried in Sand Flat Cemetery, Smith County, TX
2. John Russell Lavender, b. ca 1828, m. Martha Ann Strother, d. 25 Feb 1868
3. Margaret E. Lavender, m. George H. McCain
4. Hugh Erwin Lavender, b. ca 1834, m. Nancy Sloan
5. Nancy G. Lavender, m. John O. Porter 12 Feb 1839
6. Ann Lavender, m. W. W. Clark 18 Nov 1845

By his second wife, Sarah Ann Johnson, he had

1. Sarah J. Lavender, b. ca 1849, m. Newton W. Hodges 18 Jan. 1866

John Russell Lavender, second son of Robert S. Lavender and his wife, Jane Smith, was born in Greene County, AL, about 1828. He married his stepsister, Martha Ann Strother, 20 Feb 1851, and died in Tallahatchie County, MS, 25 Feb 1868.

Civil War Records on file in the Alabama State Library in Montgomery show that John Russell Lavender, age 34, and his brother, Hugh Erwin Lavender, age 27, enlisted in the Confederate Army and appear on the Muster Roll of Co A 36th Alabama Infantry Regiment under date of 13 May 1862, File #539a. His rather incomplete service record show that he was hospitalized from 2 July 1863 to 23 July 1863 with acute bronchitis at Tunnell Hill, GA. His name appears on the Roll of Prisoners of War Paroled at Meridian, MS, 5 May 1865. His brother, Hugh E. Lavender, seems to have been made a sergeant and was paroled as a prisoner of war after his unit surrendered to Maj. Gen. E. R. S. Canby at Citronville, AL, 13 May 1865.

John Russell Lavender returned home to Sumter County after the War to face a dismally discouraging scene, with his father dying or already dead, his farm plundered, his livestock taken away and his slaves - with the exception of one old mammy - gone. This was undoubtedly a hopelessly demoralizing situation and the decision was soon reached, apparently by several of the Lavenders and their in-laws, to pick up their few belongings and move to Tallahatchie County, MS.

Some of the recollections of my grandmother, Jennie Elizabeth

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Lavender, then only a child of four or five, were related to her daughter, Lena Clarke Gallia (one of God's noble women), who put them down with a dull pointed lead pencil in her three-years-of-schooling grammar in a letter to me back in 1947, which is worth repeating at this point. (She is speaking of Martha Ann Strother, wife of John Russell Lavender at this point.)

"Aunt Ida said she was an only child. I was all ways told she was not very strong. And a lot of trouble with the slaves when grand pa was in the serice. But she had a maid cook. One of the negores a young man run off and they got the negro dogs and run him to a river. And shot him in the arm as he was swiming a cross the rive and went in after him. Mama said grandma walked the yard mos all day untill they brought him home. Grandpa Lavender had an old negro man that his grandfather had give him. His grandfather give 4 hundred dollars for him when he was 4 years old. Grandpa set him free in his old age and give him sugar the other slaves did not have. So the slave kids would slip in and steal his sugar when Uncle Joe was asleep. So he woke up one day and caught one and almost drowned him in a barrel of water. He lived in a little hut by himself. Mama said his head was white as cotton and face as black as cole. He told on the other slaves and they did not like him but were afraid to mistreat him. Mama said they went by to tell their old slave mammy goodbye when they went to Mississippi. They all loved her she cared for them while grandma made cloth for her family and the slaves too. She run after the wagon screaming. Mama said she would wake up at night and hear the spinning wheel humming. I could write a book of the things she told me about her childhood. I wish I could put it all on paper and had pappas story too."

The date of the Lavenders' move to Mississippi was probably early 1866. Two years later the following funeral notice appeared in the Charleston "Tallahatchian".

\*\*\* Funeral Notice \*\*\*

The friends and acquaintances of the late

J. R. LAVENDER

are respectfully requested to attend his Burial to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock, at the Masonic Hall Cemetery, in Charleston, Miss.

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 1868

\*\*\* Funeral Notice \*\*\*

The friends and acquaintances of the late

MRS. J. R. LAVENDER

are respectfully requested to attend her Burial today at 3 o'clock, P.M., at the Masonic Hall Cemetery, in Charleston, Miss.

Monday, March \_\_, 1868

I have the original clippings, brown and brittle with age, carefully preserved over the years by my grandmother and then my mother.

John Russell Lavender and his wife, Martha Ann Strother, had the following children:

1. Nancy Ann Lavender, b. 1852
2. David Erwin Lavender, b. ca. 1854, d. ca. 1860, Smith County, TX
3. Fanny B. Lavender, b. ca 1856